

*Amended*  
agricultural applications, and whereby said composition is effective to repel said insects and thus protect the plant.

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*C2*  
**20. (Amended)** The method according to claim 19, wherein said composition is an aqueous suspension or dispersion of said pearl luster pigment.

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**22. (Amended)** A method for protecting a growing plant from insects and from insect-transmitted plant viruses, which comprises applying to at least one surface of the growing plant, a composition comprising at least one pearl luster pigment whereby said composition is effective to repel said insects and thus protect the plant, wherein said pearl luster pigment is selected from the group consisting of:

- C3*
- a mica coated with  $\text{TiO}_2$ ;
  - a mica coated with  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ ;
  - a mica coated with both  $\text{TiO}_2$  and  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ ;
  - a mica coated with both  $\text{TiO}_2$  and graphite;
  - a mica coated with  $\text{TiO}_2$  and  $\text{SnO}_2$ ; and
  - $\text{BiOCl}$  crystals.

**23. (Twice Amended)** The method according to claim 22, wherein the pearl luster pigment is mica coated with  $\text{TiO}_2$  further containing in the coating at least one of graphite and  $\text{SnO}_2$ .

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C4  
25. A composition for protecting growing plants from insects and from insect-transmitted plant viruses, which comprises at least one pearl luster pigment, together with at least one agriculturally acceptable diluent, carrier or adjuvant, in the form of a spray, dusting powder or aqueous suspension or dispersion, the composition being effective for applying to at least one surface of a growing plant and being suitable for agricultural applications.

C5  
27. (Amended) A composition according to claim 26, which is an aqueous suspension or dispersion of said pearl luster pigment.

29. (Twice Amended) A composition according to claim 25, wherein said pearl luster pigment is selected from the group consisting of:

a mica coated with  $\text{TiO}_2$ ;

a mica coated with  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ ;

a mica coated with both  $\text{TiO}_2$  and  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ ;

C6  
a mica coated with both  $\text{TiO}_2$  and graphite; and

$\text{BiOCl}$  crystals.

30. (Amended) A composition according to claim 25, wherein said pearl luster pigment is mica coated with  $\text{TiO}_2$  further containing in the coating at least one of graphite and  $\text{SnO}_2$ .

31. (Amended) The method of claim 18, wherein the composition comprising at least one pearl luster pigment is also applied to a background locus of the plant.